

2020 05 24 Service of the Word.

IN THE NAME

P: This is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God. Alleluia.

C: And Jesus Christ whom You have sent. Alleluia.

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Friends in Christ: Let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord God, our heavenly Father, I am a sinner and I have sinned against You, not only in my words and actions, but also in my secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully know or understand, but which You know completely. I am sorry that I have displeased You, and repent of the evil I have done. For the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, have mercy on me, forgive my sins, and graciously help me in my weakness. Amen.

P: Upon this your confession and prayer I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you!

C: Amen.

PSALM 68:1-10

P: God shall arise, His enemies shall be scattered;
and those who hate Him shall flee before Him!

**C: As smoke is driven away, so You shall drive them away;
as wax melts before fire,
so the wicked shall perish before God!**

But the righteous shall be glad;
they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!

**Sing to God, sing praises to His name;
lift up a song to Him who rides through the deserts;
His name is the Lord; exult before Him!**

Father of the fatherless and protector of widows
is God in His holy habitation.

**God settles the solitary in a home;
He leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious dwell in a parched land.**

O God, when You went out before Your people,
when You marched through the wilderness,

**The earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain,
before God, the One of Sinai,
before God, the God of Israel.**

Rain in abundance, O God, You shed abroad;
You restored Your inheritance as it languished;

**Your flock found a dwelling in it;
in your goodness, O God, You provided for the needy.**

**C: Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

**C: Holy Father, Your Son prayed for His disciples that they would be one, as
You and He are one. Keep Your whole church harmoniously together in faith
and love, united by the one Spirit. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ
our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

P: Our Gospel reading for today comes from the Gospel according to **John 17:1-11.**

“When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said,
“Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,
since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all
whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the
only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth,
having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father,
glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the
world existed. “I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me
out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have
kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is
from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have
received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they
have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the
world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are
yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in
the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep
them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as
we are one.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

APOSTLES CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

SERMON based on John 17:1-11.

P: Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sermon “What’s the point of knowing God?”

P: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray!

C: Gracious Father, we offer with joy and thanks what You have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions — as signs of Your goodness and symbols of our love. Accept them for the sake of Jesus Christ, who offered Himself for us.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Guard Your people, O Lord, and grant us unity of faith and singleness of heart as we come to You in prayer.

Lord, You have promised not to abandon Your people but to be with us always. Grant us grace to hear Your Word with faith and receive Your Holy Sacrament with repentant hearts, and to keep what we hear and receive upon our lips in holy lives.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, You have delivered the saints from fiery trial and raised up the martyr from the darkness of death to everlasting life. Give us courage, that we may give bold witness to the truth in our own day and proclaim Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of the living, it has pleased You to call our sister Wendy Schiller [from ex-St Paul’s] into Your nearer presence. We give You thanks for Wendy, for the time You have given us to know her and for the blessings that You have provided to us through her. Be also with all her loved ones and comfort them with the hope of the resurrection and the life everlasting.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, You have pledged to us Your Spirit and promised to supply Your Church with pastors who will preach and teach Your Word. Give us ears to hear and hearts to believe Your Word. Raise up those who will serve Your Church in generations to come, that we may never be without the aid of those to serve us in Your name.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You have power over all things and appoint an order on earth for the protection of the weak, the punishment of evildoers and the encouragement of virtue. Bless our government and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Give them wisdom for the challenges of our times, and preserve them from self-serving concerns. Give us grace, that we may honor the gift of liberty and be good citizens and neighbors to all.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You have compassion upon all who suffer. Give grace to the sick, to those with mental illness, to the dying in their last hours and to those who grieve. Hear us especially for those we name in our hearts before You... .. Grant them patience in their afflictions, and deliver them according to Your gracious will.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You have daily and richly supplied us with all things for this body and life. Give us grateful hearts, that we may receive Your gifts with thanksgiving and bring to You our tithes and offerings.

Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we rejoice in the Savior's promise to guard the people who wear Your name by Baptism and faith. Until we are with You in Your presence forevermore, guard us against the devil who prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking those whom he might devour. Grant us the power to resist him and trust in You without fear; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour †, and give you peace.

C: Amen.